



ALEXANDRIA:

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1861.

SENATE.—In the Senate, yesterday, resolutions for the expulsion of Senators from the seceding States, and inquiring as to the withdrawal of United States troops from the forts in those States—were introduced.

THE STATE CONVENTION.—Ex-President Tyler addressed the Convention yesterday, opposing the Peace Conference propositions.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate, on Tuesday, the Winchester and Potomac Railroad Extension bill was indefinitely postponed, by a vote of 26 to 13. In the House of Delegates, Mr. Robertson, of Richmond, presented a series of resolutions on Federal relations, which were laid on the table. The bill incorporating the Richmond and Liverpool Packet Company was passed. The bill transferring the James River and Kanawha Canal to the French Company was amended and discussed.

Senator Johnson, of Tennessee, has been one of the most determined opponents of the Secession movement—and all the vials of wrath poured on his head, have not abated the zeal and energy of his opposition. In the speech he made in Washington last week, when he was serenaded, he spoke as follows:—

"The South had a majority in Congress and they could withhold money and cripple the Administration, if they had been disposed. But they had gone out of the Union simply because they could, without either consulting their own or the nation's interest. They had gained nothing, and lost all. The people had been hurried and dragged into secession by disappointed politicians, who were aspiring after office and the emoluments of place, and when these men found that they must go down, they made this desperate struggle to elevate themselves at home. He pitied the people who had to submit to such rulers. He had met with them daily for many months; he had known them intimately for years, and was perfectly acquainted with their ideas of Government, and for himself he would rather be a subject to the autocrat of Russia; than a citizen of the Southern Confederacy."

It may be mentioned, here, that almost all the old leaders of the Jackson party, like Senator Johnson, such men as Ames, Kendall, Guthrie, Cave Johnson, &c., &c., are violent Anti-Secession men—going far beyond the Whigs in their hostility to the doctrine, and to all who support it. They declare that they represent the Jackson doctrine—hold to the Jackson faith—and maintain the Jackson principles.

The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle contends that the Constitution of the new Confederation should be submitted to a direct vote of the people of Georgia. The Tusculum North Alabama declares that acquiescence in Secession does not imply approval. It adds the following significant remarks:—

"Had we foreseen the extent to which this secession would be designed to separate Alabama from the great body of the other States; and heard the declarations since made by these now assuming to command, that the separation is designed to be final; that under no circumstances will they ever consent to a reunion under the Stars and Stripes that have ever been the pride of our friends and the terror of our foes, we should have deemed it advisable and patriotic for the Co-operation Delegates to have retired from the Convention, after the act of secession had been consummated, and left the responsibility of further action wholly to the disunion members. As it is, they have, with few exceptions, refused to sign the Ordinance of Secession, and we trust they never will sign it, unless instructed to do so by a majority of their constituents."

North Carolina—as high minded, as honorable, as sensitive to wrong, as jealous of its honor, as true to the South, as South Carolina or any other State—and which has as just cause of complaint against the North as South Carolina ever had—has, according to the latest accounts, not only declined to secede—but also refused to consider holding a State Convention to consider Secession!—She, doubtless, waits, (as all the Southern States should have waited)—for united counsels—undivided action, on the part of the Southern States still in the Union. Had the whole South acted together in the Union, and for the Union, instead of adopting separate Secession, and deserting the Union, it is more than probable that it would have by this time secured every guarantee it asked, and made the Union perpetual, safe and glorious.

A letter from Richmond, in the Fredericksburg Recorder, says, that there are three parties in the Virginia Convention.—The first go for immediate secession, and number, at the outside, not over 60; the second party go for delay, and Border Slave State Convention, and number about 60; and the third party, but are rather waiting for an expression of the sentiments of their respective constituents before they commit themselves to any given line of policy. The letter predicts that the Convention will not take decided action, one way or the other, for several weeks yet. A number of speeches are yet to be delivered.

A young man named Philip J. Cookley, Jr., in Baltimore, on Tuesday, drew a pistol at the corner near the Museum, and fired several times at a police officer, desperately wounding him. One of the pistol balls struck a lady passing by, and severely wounded her. Cookley was arrested and committed to jail.

The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle congratulates itself in the Flag adopted for the Southern Confederacy, "it has been spared the unutterable disgust of looking upon Snakes, Palmettos, and Pelicans."

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

In the Missouri Convention, on Monday, a Committee was appointed to investigate the truth of the statement contained in the Missouri Republican that a secret conspiracy existed for the purpose of forcing Missouri out of the Union. A minority report of the Committee was presented, opposing a National Convention, as recommended by the majority report, and proposing a Convention of the Border States, to be held at Nashville. It recommends the Crittenden Compromise, and advises the appointment of Commissioners to the Border States to secure their cooperation in the movement. The majority report was debated, but no action had been taken when the Convention adjourned.

General Braxton Bragg, of the army of Louisiana, has been appointed Brigadier General of the army of the Confederate States, and has been ordered to proceed to Pensacola and take command of all the troops of the operations against Fort Pickens. General David E. Twiggs is spoken of for General-in-Chief of the army of the Southern Confederacy. Calvin L. Sayre, late a lieutenant of United States Marines, has been appointed Acting Assistant Adjutant General of the provisional army of the Confederacy and has left for Texas.

The Montgomery Advertiser, the official paper of the new Southern Government, announces, with much pleasure and satisfaction, that a large portion of the new law offered by the Government of the Confederate States will be taken by New Orleans, at par. "This confidence of our people," it adds, "in the securities of this Government contrasts quite favorably with that of the fragmentary parts of the late United States in the loans recently authorized by the Congress at Washington."

George E. Baker, of Albany, New York, has been appointed Disbursing Clerk of the State Department in place of Mr. Edward Stubbs, Jr. George Harrington, who was Chief Clerk of the Treasury Department during the Administration of Mr. Fillmore, has entered temporarily upon the discharge of the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. Warren Corwin of Ohio, has been appointed to a vacant clerkship in the Interior Department.

Horridism and promulgators will be glad to learn that by the new postal arrangements passed at the late session of Congress, seeds or cuttings are classed as mailable matter in packages, and are to be charged with postage at the rate of one cent an ounce when sent under fifteen hundred miles, and two cents an ounce when sent over that distance. The package must not exceed eight ounces.

The rumor that Fort Sumter is to be evacuated stirs up the republican press, and they break out with renewed energy in denunciation of Mr. Buchanan for doing "nothing," although it is exactly the same thing Mr. Lincoln proposes to do, and all that he can do without a powerful army, millions of dollars, a civil war and the sacrifice of hundreds of valuable lives.

The Augusta (Ga.) Sentinel, of the 9th instant says:—"A difficulty occurred at the Lower Market House yesterday morning, between John Foster, Jr., and H. B. Willis, in which the former was hit by the latter. Six or seven shots were fired between the parties. The affray originated in a political dispute."

Sixty students rebelled in the College of St. Charles, parish of St. Landry, La., the other day. At a given signal, immediately on the conclusion of grace, they arose, each one snatched his plate and glass, and then they overthrew the table. They immediately left for their homes. Most of them are young men grown.

It is known that the intention of the President is to first fill the vacancies which exist and which must be filled during the present session of the Senate. Excepting in a few instances, other appointments will be deferred until this is done. In the meanwhile applicants are required to file their papers in the proper departments.

The Augusta (Georgia) Sentinel thinks that the Provisional Congress has done wisely in adopting as a flag one whose emblem—the Stars and Stripes—are dear to the Southern heart, linked as they are with many of the dearest and proudest recollections of the past. Its gratification is not however without some reservation.

James W. Liggett, of Washington County, Md., convicted at Frederick of obtaining money under false pretenses, has been denied a new trial, and sentenced to imprisonment in the jail of the former county for six months, to pay a fine of \$50, and to refund to the party who was swindled the sum of \$500.

The proprietors of Northern race attractions will be unable to present any very attractive programme during the coming spring and summer season. The Southern horses, which are chiefly relied upon, will all be retained at home; and the races will be a very lame affair.

Thirty thousand dollars worth of diamonds, rich sets and magnificent single articles, were sent by Piffant & Co., of New York, to Montgomery, Ala., for the inauguration Ball. The consignment is said to have been made to some of the most distinguished and fashionable of the Southern ladies.

The Louisiana Convention is waiting to receive the Constitution from Montgomery, which was completed on Saturday. The opinion is entertained that the Convention has plenary power to ratify or reject it, *per contra*, that it should go to the people.

Within the last few months the health of Justice McLean, of Ohio, has sensibly declined. He has lately become very feeble; so much so, indeed, as frequently to be unable to take part in important consultations with his colleagues of the Supreme Court.

The Kentucky Secessionists have issued a circular, advising the immediate institution of measures in all the counties of the State for the election of delegates to a Convention to be held at Frankfort on the 20th of the present month.

It is expected that the troops returned from Texas, will be distributed to Forts Monroe, Washington and Hamilton. Should Major Anderson evacuate Fort Sumter, he will probably be ordered to Fort Monroe.

Two children were born to death in a house, in Baltimore, on Monday night. They were put to bed; a candle burning on a stand near the bed, and the bed clothes took fire.

Gov. Magoffin, of Kentucky, had his left arm broken at its socket on Sunday last, by the upsetting of a stage coach at Harrodsburg.

The four million negroes at the South are the most civilized and most christianized of any four millions of negroes ever known to exist upon the face of this earth.

The lights at Mobile Point and Sand Island have been extinguished by order of the commander of Fort Morgan.

Mr. Richard Sands, of the well-known circus firm of Sands, Nathans & Co., died a few days ago in Havana.

Letter from Richmond.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

Richmond, March 12.—The House of Delegates this morning passed the bill to enforce payment on balances due Commissioners of forfeited and delinquent lands: Senate bill to incorporate the Rockbridge White Sulphur Springs Company; Senate bill to amend the act incorporating the Mason County Mining and Manufacturing Company; Senate bill to incorporate the Virginia Mineral Coal and Oil Company in the county of Mason; Senate bill to incorporate the Jackson County Agricultural Society; two Senate bills to provide for the voluntary enslavement of certain negroes in Fauquier and Hanover; a bill to incorporate the Richmond and Liverpool Packet Company.

Mr. Robertson, of Richmond City, offered some resolutions on the subject of Federal Relations, to which considerable opposition was raised, on the ground that the whole question was now in charge of the State Convention, which seems to be a fair conclusion. A motion to indefinitely postpone was made but withdrawn, and the resolutions laid on the table.

The House is now considering the bill to incorporate the Virginia Canal Company, (106 pages.) There is some fear of *running* the Clerk by passing the bill, and thus calling in all the various elements and members. The House, in consequence, is very thin, many members for the last two days have been at the Convention, listening to the able speech of the Hon. G. W. Summers. He is completely vindicating the action of three of the Peace Commissioners appointed by the Legislature, and proved most conclusively that it was eminently just and proper. What the Conference proposed to Congress, he contended ought to be entirely satisfactory to Virginia and the Border States. The House finding itself without a quorum, 61 members, (at 2 o'clock) a call of the House was moved and carried. The doors were closed, and after proceeding some time with the call, the House dispersed with any further call, and ordered the doors opened, when a quorum appeared.

The Winchester and Potomac Railroad extension to Strasburg was indefinitely postponed in the Senate—yeas 26, nays 13. It is enough, and I hope this is the last of it this session, but I will probably be pressed from year to year.

I learn that W. B. Payne, formerly a member of this House from Fauquier, has been appointed Postmaster at Danville, in place of W. D. Coleman.

"A LOCKER OK."

RAILROAD SECURITIES OF THE BORDER STATES.

On the subject of a decline in the securities of the Border Slave States, we extract the following observations from a late number of the New York Express:—"The decline in the securities of the Border States is easily understood by all who know the foundation upon which they rest. It is a mistake to suppose that the North-western and Northern States are the sole possessors of railway enterprises based on speculation, and that they only would suffer by a civil war, upon which many look so coolly. The record shows that the Border Slave States have entered boldly into the work of internal improvement, and that they are in no degree behind the free States in modes of internal transit, based on credit, and operation in time of peace, or in a foreign war, but one full of danger when civil war rages. The following table will show about the debts for internal improvements of the four leading States, but the actual amount is above the figures given:

| RAILROAD AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT OBLIGATIONS OF THE BORDER STATES. | |
|---|--------------|
| Maryland..... | \$2,250,000 |
| Missouri..... | 1,650,000 |
| North Carolina..... | 6,500,000 |
| Tennessee..... | 16,800,000 |
| Virginia..... | 25,900,000 |
| Total..... | \$51,650,000 |

| PROBABLE NEW YORK. | Decline |
|--|---------|
| March 3, 1860, March 6, 1861, percent. | |
| Tennessee..... | 77 1/2 |
| Missouri..... | 69 |
| North Carolina..... | 81 |
| Virginia..... | 74 1/2 |

This decline has been shown during a time when these States have faithfully and promptly met their obligations. It is alarm at the chance of internal disturbance causes such a depreciation in the value of States of undoubted honor and ability, who can estimate the confusion which would follow a disorganization of business through the disorganization of civil war? The obligations of these States, like other railroad securities, would be dishonored, sweeping off at a stroke the basis of the bank currency of the Northwest, making it in the hands of holders practically worthless, for no reconstruction of the currency in time of peace, or in a foreign war, based upon such stocks would be paid, but original holders would have sold out for a song. Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin have now a direct and personal interest in extending to the Border States every extension possible, if they would escape a bank panic and ruin, such as 1857 and 1858 were developed, and their attention cannot be too closely fixed upon this point. The currency of four States is based upon debts owed by Slave States, and its preservation at the present standard in New York is essential to their financial safety. To the new Administration these facts are commended, as showing that the shortest way to ruin the West will be to encourage the South by force of arms—thus securing an amount of financial embarrassment such as the country never saw."

THE MARYLAND "STATE CONFERENCE CONVENTION."—Presided at the Universalist Church, Tuesday, in pursuance of adjournment from the 23d ult. The attendance was small, though a portion of the delegates were present from all the counties except Frederick, Talbot, Caroline, Prince George's and Worcester. Judge Chambers, on taking the Chair, made a statement that he had been informed before leaving home that Governor Hicks had determined to call a Convention, or submit the question of a vote to a vote of the people, but since arriving here he had been informed by parties who had conferred with the Governor as late as Saturday morning last, that he had no intention at present of taking any such action. The session was spent in a desultory discussion, and in the recreation of various resolutions, which were referred to a Committee.

The Conference evidently had itself in an embarrassing position, and will probably conclude to do just what its prominent members assail Governor Hicks for doing—that is, wait the course of events.—*Balt. Amer.*

PERDITION VERIFIED.—In 1856 we said the time would come when any man who should oppose the reopening of the African slave-trade would be denounced as an abolitionist. Such a time came a year ago. At the late Presidential canvass we said that the time would soon come when every man who opposed the dissolution of the Union would be denounced as an abolitionist.—Such a time has come now.—*Louisville Journal.*

THE WAY TO SAVE THE UNION.—A million, North, as well as South, don't think a Union is worth saving, that can only be saved by mortars, columbiads, flying artillery, shells, etc. The only way to save the Union is to obey the laws and constitution—not as you and I would like it—but as the courts expound it.—*N. Y. Express.*

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate on Tuesday, the tax bill was made the order of the day for Wednesday at 11 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Isbell, the bill authorizing the Winchester and Potomac Railroad Company to extend their road from the town of Winchester, to connect with the Manassas Gap Railroad at or near the town of Strasburg, was taken from the table. Memorials in favor of the extension, signed by a number of persons, extended, thereby, were presented by Mr. Carson and read. The proceedings of the Common Council of Alexandria against the proposed extension, were presented by Mr. H. W. Thomas and read.

A motion was made to indefinitely postpone. Mr. Isbell addressed the Senate in an able argument against the postponement, and in favor of the passage of the bill.

Mr. Carson spoke briefly in support of the measure.

The vote was then taken on the indefinite postponement of the bill, with the following result:

Yeas—Messrs. Carter, Caphill, Critcher, Day, J. Dickenson, Douglas, Greese, Hubbard, John, Logan, Lynch, Marshall, Massey, Nash, Nelson, Newland, Pate, Quesberry, Rivers, Smith, Stuart, Telford, H. W. Thomas, Twines, Urquhart and Williams. Nays—Messrs. Brannon, Bruce, Caldwell, Carson, Claiborne, A. D. Dickinson, Early, French, Gatemore, Isbell, Neal, Paxton, and Thompson—12.

A bill was passed for the relief of the securities of Thomas K. Davis, late Sheriff of Prince William County.

The House of Delegates agreed to Senate amendments to bill establishing branches of the Merchants' Banks at certain places.

Bills were passed enforcing the payment of balances due from Commissioners upon forfeited and delinquent lands; providing for the voluntary enslavement of certain free negroes of Fauquier County.

Mr. Robertson indicated his intention to offer the following resolutions for the action of the House. He asked that they be read. There being no objection, they were read as follows:

Resolved, by the General Assembly of Virginia:—

1. That without deeming it necessary to decide on the right of a State to secede from the Union, we yet recognize the fact that seven States at least have actually seceded and have peacefully organized and established State governments and a Confederate government of their own, to which the people thereof seem to pay allegiance and render obedience, in like manner as the people of any other government, to it.

2. That without in like manner deeming it necessary to inquire into the right of the General Government to execute the laws of the United States within the territory, or against the people of such seceded States, or Confederacy, we yet recognize the fact that the policy of attempting to do so, which seems to be indicated by the President of the United States as that which he proposes to pursue, as being, in the actual circumstances which exist, utterly inexpedient and reprehensible, and as tending to involve the whole country in an unnecessary and abortive war.

3. That the interests of Virginia, of vast magnitude, vital to her safety and of paramount importance to all others, and common, moreover, to other States of the Union, are so bound up in and imperilled by the inevitable results of that policy of coercion to forward the seceding States which seems to be advocated in the President's inaugural address, as to authorize the demand that he should forbear from attempting to carry any such purpose into execution, if such has been his design, and to declare that if such attempt he made Virginia should, in our opinion, and will oppose it, with all her means and in such mode as her sovereign authorities shall deem most expedient, a determined resistance.

4. That by the ratifications of the conventions of nine States of the original thirteen, the government of the United States became an established Government among the Powers of the earth; that as the accession of other States to it does not increase the demand for change in the slightest degree its political powers, so neither does nor can the secession from it lessen or affect them; that it remains in both cases complete full, not more, a perfect and complete Government, to all intents and purposes, with the rights conferred on it by the Constitution, full and unimpaired forever, so long as nine States whose concurrence resulted, originally, rightfully to establish it shall choose to continue it.

5. That the Government of the United States is therefore competent to consider the seceded States, or the Confederate States of America, without any necessity for deciding the validity of the claim they assert to independence, *per se*, as being independent of the Union, and may treat and deal with them on all respects so far as the question of power is concerned, as with any other States or people, claiming independent political existence.

6. That the mode of dealing with such cases, whether by war or by pacific modes of settlement, should depend on the causes which give rise to them, the consequences they entail and all the circumstances that surround them; that in none of these considerations, in the present instance, can be found just cause for war, and we earnestly recommend the present recognition by the Government of the United States of the fact of the independent political existence of the Southern States or Confederacy; that at all events to treat the seceded States as being independent of the Union, and to force them to execute the laws of the United States within their territorial limits, or against their citizens, or to hold, occupy, or possess the property and place belonging to it therein, or to collect the duties and imposts as being in effect, or leading inevitably to war.

7. That the main causes of the trouble between the North and the South are to be found in the offensive intermeddling of the former with the exclusive right to regulate our domestic institutions; in their invidious ascription of sinfulness to them, and in the insulting claim to exclude us from all territories of which we are part owners, except upon the condition of our parting with our slaves and in the formation and accession to power of a party "founded on geographical discrimination"—all which acts we hold to be equally against the spirit and provisions of the Constitution, a just equality of rights and social duty; that the first duty of the North, if it would win back the States that have gone out of the Union, or would keep in those which still remain, is to do justice to the South by removing these causes of complaint. But if from prejudice they choose to indulge in an incorrect appreciation of their obligations, and shall decide that they cannot or will not remove these causes, then they should at once incur in some proper mode of providing for a peaceful separation from another of such States as may choose to remain under the original terms of Constitutional and social equality, to be secured by proper additional guarantees, and those which refuse to continue the Union on any other terms is simply impossible.

8. That it is the true policy, and should be the aim of Virginia, unless driven by a force policy of the General Government into disruption or war, to maintain and restore the Union with all the States North and South of her, that are willing to stand loyally on the Constitution, in its original spirit and meaning, with such amendments thereunto as experience has shown to be necessary to carry out the original objects of its formation, and to force out of the Union all such

States as are faithless to its obligations and its objects, and shall refuse to concur in making such amendments; and to facilitate that object, should proceed now by her Convention to prepare such amendments, as they may deem suitable and satisfactory, and take proper measures to obtain the earliest possible action on them by the people of the different States, through General Convention or otherwise, whose proceedings, if the sum be held, should be reported back to the Convention; and if said General Convention be not held, or if its conclusions be not taken, then the Convention of Virginia to take such measures for severing her connection with the present Union, and her future welfare, as shall to them seem best.

The resolutions were laid on the table. Mr. Newton moved to lay over the unfinished business of yesterday, (the James River and Kanawha Canal bill), which next came up in order. He did so for the purpose of asking the House to take up the bill incorporating the Richmond and Liverpool Packet Company.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the bill of incorporation was then taken up, and being read a third time, was passed.

The Speaker said that the "bill incorporating the Virginia Canal Company, and transferring the rights and franchise of the James River and Kanawha Canal Company," came up as unfinished business.

The House proceeded to its consideration. It was read by section, and was amended and discussed. Pending which, the House adjourned.

THE STATE CONVENTION.

In the Virginia Convention on Tuesday, Mr. Tarr, of Brooke County, presented the following resolutions, which were read and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations:

Whereas, A number of Southern States of this Union have seceded therefrom, and an attempt to retake the forts and other property of the United States now in possession of said States, by the Federal Government, in the present critical condition of the country, would, it is believed, seriously endanger the peaceful relations now existing between the seceding Southern States and the General Government itself; and will tend to, if it does not, produce civil war; therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention, to avoid a conflict, and restore harmony between the Federal Government and the seceding States, would earnestly recommend to the said Government and the said States, that the relations now subsisting between them should be maintained, with the hope of an amicable adjustment can be effected, and that the Federal Government, with a view to the attainment of that object, although the right unquestionably exists, should not attempt forcibly to retake the forts, arsenals and other public property of the United States, until an effort shall have been made for adjustment, by the State of Virginia, in Convention assembled.

Resolved, That whilst we deprecate any action on the part of the Federal Government that may lead to a collision between itself and the seceding States, yet the withdrawal of the said States from the Union, having been made in violation of the Constitution of the United States, and without the consent of Virginia; involving as it does, the peace and security of the entire Union, does not warrant, and ought not to receive the sanction of Virginia.

The report of the Peace Conference was then taken up, and Mr. Summers resumed and concluded his speech in vindication of the plan of adjustment adopted by the Convention, and in advocacy of a further effort to adjust the national troubles. He expressed his cordial approval of the proposed Conference of the Border States, at Frankfort, Kentucky.

The conclusion of Mr. Summers' remarks are thus given in the Dispatch:—"What would be the wisdom of dispersing an ordinance of secession, in the face of the known sentiments of a Virginia constituency? The people did not mean to adopt such an ordinance until every honorable measure of adjustment had been exhausted. Go, then, with the efforts to adjust all fail, the people will demand the Convention, which will then, from one and to the other. He expressed his devoted attachment to Virginia, for whose interest he was willing to lay down his life. But he was here to speak his mind fully and frankly, and for one he protested against the passage of an ordinance of secession. He spoke of the action and position of the Border States, and then alluded to the new Administration, and to the argument that Virginia was thereby to be driven out of the Union."

He denied that she could be driven or impelled by anybody. Instead of our submitting to Lincoln, he was at this moment submitting to the action of the Border States. He said nothing about the inaugural Lincoln could not retake the forts, if he so desired. He did not avoid them, for they were in seceded States, and not necessary to national defence, and in any event he had not the means for raising a force for their capture. The idea of collecting revenue outside of the harbors he pronounced illegal and impracticable; and the proposition for a blockade could not be maintained. He did not propose to discuss the right of secession. No enlightened statesman could compare the secession of States by conventional majority, with insurrectionary movements in former times.

It was a new and unlooked for condition of things. He was in favor of letting the seceded States alone. The latest news gave assurance that the insurgent forces of the South would soon be withdrawn from the Confederacy, and that would bring back the States into the common family. It was the duty of Virginia to stand by the Union until the performance of that duty became impossible. He urged the adoption of the proposition for a conference of the slave States remaining in the Union with an endorsement of the Peace Conference propositions as the basis of adjustment—Virginia ought to act promptly but not precipitately; first, she should command the peace on all sides; next, call the Border State Conference, and adjourn over to await its result. She ought to remove the existing state of business depression, by letting her voice go forth at the known her place and means to perform it; that she means to keep the peace. Do it, and however dark and cheerless it may have been, the bow of promise will span the whole heavens, and the voice of the people will everywhere come up, saying "well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Ex-President Tyler obtained the floor, and the Convention adjourned.

SHELL AND SHOT.—The Petersburg Express relates that on Saturday last, while a dray heavily loaded with ten-inch shells was proceeding up Sycamore street the horse came off in consequence of the pressure caused by the shells, whilst ascending the hill near the corner of Main and Sycamore streets, and the dray was overturned, and the shells and shot were scattered all over the pavement. The weight of the shells, and the fact that wherever one of them touched the pavement, it made a hole some three or four inches deep. They were all gathered up, one by one, again placed on the vehicle and hauled to the Southern Depot. Their destination is South Carolina. Several thousand have preceded them since the 21st of January, but the end is not yet. We are credibly informed that the orders already given the establishment where these are manufactured cannot possibly be filled before the first of January, 1862.

COMMUNICATION.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn."

I will, with your permission, address through the columns of the Gazette, a few words to Cedar of the South. You doubtless remember a dear Cedar, what Solomon says about a man who is "wise in his own conceit." Cedar and truth compels me to say that you appear to be, as a writer, too pedantic and dogmatical! You say some very hard things about those who do not think as you do in regard to this question of "Secession." You are uncharitable enough to declare that "those who are loudest in their calls for Secession, are men of ambitious purposes and unholy motives." You seem to be fond of quoting from the Bible, but that ye be not judged! "You say that you believe "Secession" is "legally and morally wrong." You know you cannot do it, sir! You think it strange, a passing strange, that "good men of approved standing." Let me tell you that thousands of the wisest and purest men in the land, are to be found fighting under the banner of Secession! Are you sure that you have calmly and impartially studied this question of "Secession?" You will admit that James Madison was a pure patriot and a profound statesman. Now, do you think you understand the Constitution of the United States better than he did? Madison says:—"A compact between independent sovereigns, entered into by mutual consent, and for mutual benefit, is higher validity than a league or treaty between the parties. It is an established doctrine on the subject of treaties, that all the articles are mutually conditions of each other; that a breach of any one article is a breach of the whole treaty; and that a breach committed by either of the parties absolves the others, and authorizes them, if they please, to pronounce the compact violated and void. In the re-establishment of the Constitution, the States should be regarded as distinct and independent sovereigns, and they are so regarded. The Constitution and Union can be superseded without the unanimous consent of the States which are parties to it, upon the great principle of self-preservation; to the transcendent law of nature and nature's God, which declares that the safety and happiness of society are the objects to which all political institutions should be sacrificed. And do you not think that Alexander Hamilton knew almost as much about the Constitution as you do? Hear him: "In a confederacy the people may be said to be directly the masters of their own fate."

And now, sir, is it not clear that both Madison and Hamilton regarded the States as "distinct and independent sovereigns?" If Madison and Hamilton were living now, do you think they would regard Secession as "legally and morally wrong?"

Are you not aware that nine-tenths of those immortal and illustrious men who formed the Constitution, regarded the States as "distinct and independent sovereigns?"

LAFAYETTE.

Rappahannock county, Va.

Public Meetings in Fredericksburg.

The citizens of Fredericksburg met in public meeting on Friday evening to consider the absorbing topic of the day, and give expression to their views. Dr. Wm. S. Scott, president, and Jas. B. Sener acted as Secretary. A committee of five, consisting of Dr. H. T. Minor, E. M. Braxton, George H. R. Howe, T. M. Barton and J. L. May Jr., reported resolutions of the following import: That Virginia should rally all her resources to aid the seceded States in resisting the Federal Government, and in maintaining their independence. 2d. That the Virginia Convention should, without delay, demand efforts to the work of setting on foot arrangements adequate to the establishment of a new government, in which shall be embraced and united all the slaveholding States of the South. 3d. That if this can best be done by the immediate withdrawal of Virginia from the Federal Union, this community will cordially approve and sustain that action. 4th. That our Delegates in the Convention is desired to use his efforts to effectuate these views. The meeting that adopted these resolutions, unanimously, save one vote, is understood to have been one of the largest ever held in Fredericksburg. It is represented by Messrs. Douglas, Messrs. Brackridge and Messrs. W. are free to admit that our people are not united as one man, as might appear from the above, yet we suppose no one will question the statement that a vast, preponderating opinion sustains the above sentiments.—There has been a reaction, just as we have always said there would be, and it has come like a ground swell in Old Fredericksburg!—*Fred. Herald.*

The Secession meeting Friday night passed resolutions whose substance we give elsewhere. Messrs. Gilman, Herndon, Braxton, Barton, Rowe, Lacey, and J. L. May Jr., made speeches. The American flag was hoisted and thrust out of the door. One man who presided over three cheers for the Union, threatened with expulsion, and it was said he was "joking," but he dared an attack. Absence from town prevented our attendance, and we cannot therefore do justice to the subject.

The "Union Meeting" last night was called to order by James McGuire, and Hugh Scott, esq., appointed Chairman and J. F. McEwen, esq., appointed Secretary. G. H. R. Howe and J. W. Humeau addressed the meeting in favor of "revolution and fighting, not secession and retreat." Mr. May was called, but the noise and confusion drowned his voice. Dr. Blankman was also called, but could not get a hearing. Resolutions opposed to coercion and in favor of fighting in the Union, were declared to be passed, and the greatest confusion, and a very disorderly thorough, ensued. One man who was smashed on his head. Anarchy seemed to be upon us. Severe indisposition prevented our being present and giving a more extended report. Thus we have unwillingly missed two